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the most part, both in Introduction, translation, and comments, either the substitution of one more accurate synonym for another or of a smoother rhetorical idiom or the addition of brief interpretative suggestions here and there. The large number of these minor changes constitutes a great improvement in the commentary. Attention to details such as these makes for perfection.

The literature of the last decade has left little impress upon this commentary. As in the earlier editions, Duhm contents himself in the stating fully and clearly his own views and pays little attention to contrary views. The opinions of this edition are essentially those of its predecessors. As a matter of fact, the interpretation of Isaiah, since the issue of the first edition of this work, has gone mainly in the direction indicated by that epoch-marking book. Yet we ought to have here an evaluation of the more recent work affecting Isaiah. No more important question presents itself in the interpretation of Isaiah than that of the proper treatment of the eschatological and messianic materials. Gunkel and Gressmann have opened up a new avenue of approach to this problem. Duhm gives no recognition to this suggestion. He is content to travel in the path that he marked out twenty-two years ago.

J. M. P. S.

EISZFELDT, OTTO. *Israels Geschichte*. [Praktische Bibelerklärung.] Tübingen: J. C. B. Mohr, 1914. 52 pages. M. o. 50.

This compact little book deals in a thoroughly critical fashion with the principal events in the life of the Hebrew people, from their beginning to the exile, having in all twenty-seven short chapters arranged in seven divisions, and prefacing each chapter with brief quotations from the Old Testament text. The style is clear and simple, and the writer has a facility in pointing out in a few words the religious as well as the political importance of the events mentioned.

The book follows the modern line: The patriarchal period does not furnish us history; Hebrew tribes reach Palestine after 1400, some of them wander to Egypt about 1300, are led out by Moses after 1250, and are in the west-Jordan country before 1200; the conflict with the two types of Baalism is clearly pointed out; and the period of the Kings and Prophets is dealt with in brief though pointed characterizations of men and messages.

D. E. T.

SANDERS, FRANK KNIGHT. *History of the Hebrews*. Their Political, Social, and Religious Development and Their Contribution to World-Betterment. New York: Scribner, 1914. xiii+367 pages. \$1.00.

This book is intended as a textbook for classes in undergraduate Bible-study and may serve as well for elementary theological classes. Though the writer disclaims any originality as to material, the volume shows the results of a vast amount of work. The most characteristic thing about it is its arrangement and the method of study for which it prepares the way. After eight short introductory studies covering in all only 17 pages, the author divides his entire work into five parts and follows the analogy of the principal periods in the physical and mental development of an individual life; viz., (1) Childhood, (2) Adolescence, (3) Maturity, (4) Mental and Spiritual Productivity, (5) Age of Fixed Convictions. To these correspond in Israel's corporate life, (1) The Patriarchal Period, (2) Settlement in Canaan to the Disruption of the Kingdom, (3) From Disruption to 586, (4) 586 to Ezra and Nehemiah, (5) Judaism down

to 135 A.D. Each of these main divisions is elaborately subdivided into small sections, each of which is carefully introduced with reference to its historical and religious setting and clinched with a set of questions; in all, there are 534 sections. There is much supplemental material in the way of maps and longer lists of questions dealing with the principal divisions of the history, as well as an appendix with references to the literature bearing on each section, and a good index. The work gives one the impression of great thoroughness, and in the hands of a skilful teacher should pave the way for a thorough grounding in the knowledge of the Jewish people.

D. E. T.

WEHLE, THEODORE. *Origin and Meaning of the Old Testament*. New York: R. H. Fenno, 1914. 199 pages. \$1.00.

The aim of the author of this small treatise is to present impartially and in a concise form the results of modern criticism of the Old Testament writings. It is his hope that it may serve as an introduction to a more detailed study of the same field or as a public-school textbook on the history and development of the people of Israel. An introductory chapter deals largely with the bearing of archaeological results upon Old Testament study; though necessarily it is far from complete. Chap. i deals briefly with the nature of the Old Testament records, then in a series of five chapters the principal events from Moses to Ezra are set forth in the briefest possible form. There is nothing new in the book, as it aims to set down only the points that have been well established by criticism. In some cases, notably with respect to early Babylonian chronology, the latest findings have not been followed.

On the whole the book is very readable and may well fill a place for the lay reader who wishes to gain some familiarity with the Old Testament as viewed by modern investigators.

D. E. T.

RICHARDSON, ERNEST CUSHING. *Biblical Libraries*. A Sketch of Library History from 3400 B.C. to 150 A.D. Princeton: University Press, 1914. xvi+252 pages. \$1.25.

This book opens with an introductory chapter of 35 pages, which sets out to prove that a library is a library, so that the author may have a lively theme for the remainder of the book. After reading the pages of the work, one sees in every age, from the dawn of civilization down through New Testament times, most elaborate and well-organized collections of books, housed in splendid library rooms, private as well as public, sacred as well as secular. A lively imagination supplies at every stage those elements which sober facts fail to provide.

The title is misleading since the book covers more non-biblical than biblical material, and deals with the book collections of every people who in any way touched the life of the Jewish people.

Among these various peoples, the author concludes, the temples had extensive archives; these contained primarily temple business records including letters, but also private business documents, contracts, deeds, wills, etc., while private business firms kept their own collections of records in their own counting-rooms; the temple schools had sign lists, exercises, etc., and hundreds if not thousands of religious texts were to be found both in the schools and in the temple area. It is with the purpose of substantiating the foregoing statements that the author has brought together the materials of